

Did you know?

Military Family
Appreciation Week
is Nov. 21-28.



Airlift DISPATCH

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Charleston AFB, SC

Charleston facts

The Denton Program transported more than 11 million pounds of relief for Hurricane Mitch, most of which went through Charleston AFB.



Staff Sgt. Andrew Rodier

Taking aim

Airman 1st Class Bryan Donaldson, 437th Aircraft Generation Squadron, sets his sights on an aggressor during Ability to Survive and Operate training. Approximately 240 members took part in the ATSO exercise scenarios Nov. 8 and 10. (This photo was inadvertently replaced on the cover of the Nov. 12 Airlift Dispatch)

C-17 proves capabilities at Red Flag

By 2nd Lt. Allen Herritage
AWFC PA GLOBEMASTER

At first glance, the big, bulky C-17 Globemaster III doesn't seem to have much in the way of maneuverability and versatility, especially to eyes that are accustomed to seeing fighters zip in and out of Nellis AFB, Nev. One ride in the behemoth airlifter, however, will erase any of the standard opinions that often accompany Air Mobility Command aircraft.

The C-17 had a perfect opportunity to show off its amazing capabilities during Red Flag 00-1, which ran from Oct. 24 to Nov. 6. During the exercise, the Globemaster simulated the tactical and strategic airlift necessary to sustain U.S. forces in wartime.

The final day of the Red Flag exercise was the busiest for the C-17 crew from Charleston AFB. Their mission was to fly up range, pick up two HMMWVs, and return to Nellis.

This sounds like a routine mission. But, if you consider see **Red Flag**, page 2

50 Charleston members attend biggest, best A/TA convention ever

By Danita L. Hunter
AMC Public Affairs

Fifty Charleston AFB members attended the 1999 Airlift Tanker Association in Dallas Nov. 6, which boasted an attendance of more than 2,300.

This was the biggest turnout yet at the 31st annual convention held at the Adams Mark Hotel.

"It's an awesome crowd. A whole host of gray-beards here today, gray beards from times not so long ago, and a whole host of young, flat-bellied racehorses who will carry this command even better than it's ever been into the next century. Thank you all for coming," said Gen. Charles T. "Tony" Robertson Jr., commander of Air Mobility Command.

The conference serves three purposes: professional development, heritage preservation and camaraderie promotion.

To meet the first objective, members of 14 organizations, including the Royal Air Force, presented 32 professional development seminars on subjects ranging from the humanitarian relief airdrop mission to Antarctica to the Expeditionary

Aerospace Force to personnel matters, over a three-day period.

"It was a very worthwhile experience," said Rose Alexander, a Civil Service employee in 437th Airlift Wing command section and an active member of the Lowcountry Chapter of the A/TA since 1998. "It's important to remember that we all (enlisted, officers and civilians) are working toward one common goal and the convention helped me see that."

Seminars were offered on different aspects of the Air Force and it gave Alexander the opportunity to see the bigger picture. "I knew what the Kosovo mission was from a Charleston perspective," said Alexander, "but this let me see the mission from all sides."

The association preserved heritage by inducting retired Col. Gail Halvorsen, also known as the Candy Bomber from World War II, into the Airlift Tanker Hall of Fame. Other Hall of Famers include Lt. Gen. William H. Tunner, Gen. Laurence S. Kuter, Donald W. Douglas, Lt. Gen. Harold L. George, Maj. Gen. Cyrus Rowlett (CR) Smith, Lt. Gen. Ira E. Eaker, see **ATA**, page 5

Denton office officially arrives

By Lt. Col. Ed Memi
437 AW Public Affairs

The official transfer of the Denton Program Office here from Pope AFB, N.C. was recognized in a short ceremony Monday in Bldg. 178.

The four person office here, under contract by U.S. Transportation Command, manages the Department of Defense's Denton Program which handles the logistics for transporting State department and U.S. Agency for International Development approved, privately donated humanitarian cargo worldwide by land, sea and air on a space available basis.

The office gets its name from retired admiral and former U.S. Senator to Alabama Jeremiah Denton, who established an amendment, named in his honor, in 1985 to the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961. The Denton Amendment gave DoD the authority to move humanitarian cargo worldwide at no charge to the donor on a space available basis.

"There is no more rewarding mission for an airlifter than a humanitarian mission and there is no program that allows us to do that better than the Denton program," said Brig. Gen. Robert D. Bishop, Jr., 437th Airlift Wing commander, during the ceremony.

The Denton program is managed by Joint Relief International and Bishop said from his years at U.S. Transportation Command that there is "no organization or people who care more about humanitarian missions than those at Joint Relief International."

Bishop said Charleston was the logical choice for the office to relocate to since the base flies 70 percent of the missions, its close proximity to central American routes, the operational support provided by the 315th Airlift Wing and the access provided by Charleston's port for sealift.

JRI director Jim Ward was enthusiastic about the move to Charleston and thanked Team Charleston for making their move painless. He also described the Denton Program as a plus for U.S. foreign policy. "Despite its relatively low cost to the Department of Defense, there is nothing more effective for our foreign policy than an aircraft with the U.S. flag on it offloading medical supplies. It goes a long way in promoting world peace while stabilizing regions of the world."

Charleston was the obvious choice for the Denton Program office, which had been at Pope since December 1997. "The enroute structures are in place here to transit all see **Denton**, page 3